

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:08 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2005 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Santome.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Lee, Rische, Santome, Tsao, and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: Commissioner Ulrich.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Traffic Engineering Associate Sedadi,
Transportation Planning Associate Crump,
Public Works Associate Engineer Leung
Deputy City Attorney Sullivan,
Deputy City Attorney Caceres,
Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda, and
Assistant Fire Marshall Gebel.

Transportation Manager Semaan relayed Commissioner Ulrich's request for an excused absence from this meeting and announced that Commissioner O'Brien resigned from the Traffic Commission because she no longer resides in the City.

4. **AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ulrich).

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 6, 2005**

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved for the approval of the June 6, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ulrich and with Commissioner Santome abstaining).

6. **ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

6a. **CITYWIDE TRAFFIC STUDY STATUS REPORT**

Traffic Engineering Associate Sedadi presented the staff status report regarding the Citywide Traffic Study included in the material of record. She stated that Attachment A, presented at the April 4, 2005 Commission meeting, identifies who the consultant is, the project, the project scope of work, and the project's objectives. She advised that at the April 4, 2005 meeting staff presented holiday traffic counts, 170 intersections that turning movement counts would be taken, as well as 170 roadway segments.

She advised that Attachment B compares data collected and percent of change from 1999 Average Daily Traffic Volumes and 2005 Average Daily Traffic Volumes, both reflecting 24-hour counts in both directions. She stated that a segment-by-segment comparison showed an increase in volume of 2.92 percent. She discussed flow maps in Attachment C that compare the Average Daily Traffic in 2004 holiday traffic and 2005 non-holiday traffic on weekdays and weekends.

Referring to Attachment D, she explained that the consultant prepared a sample intersection level-of-service analysis with two different methods based on delay and capacity. She stated that Attachment E provides the identification of "Pass-Through Traffic" that will be collected by videotaping.

She advised that once all the data has been collected and level of service calculated, it would be put into a traffic model. She explained that when a new project comes to Torrance, the traffic and trip generations can be put into the model and would forecast what kind of impact it would have on intersections around the City. She stated that it was also dependant on land use and circulation elements in the General Plan update. She informed Commissioners that, following additional data collection and calculation, staff would bring back another Citywide Traffic Study update to the Commission by the end of 2005.

Commissioner Santome suggested that pass-through data be collected on Van Ness Avenue, between 190th Street and Redondo Beach Boulevard.

Commissioner Tsao recommended that pass-through data also be captured entering and exiting on Inglewood Avenue.

Responding to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry regarding a timeframe for the traffic model, Traffic Engineering Associate Sedadi advised that the model needed to be continuously updated and that collected data would create a baseline that could be built on.

When Commissioner Rische commented that it was hard to believe that traffic volume on Pacific Coast Highway has decreased, Traffic Engineering Associate Sedadi noted the increase in traffic volumes on Lomita Boulevard and Skypark Drive. She suggested that traffic was dispersing to other streets rather than using Pacific Coast Highway.

Sandi Monda, Talisman Street, asked staff to clarify how growth related to near-term and long-term development could be forecast in the City due to potential zoning changes to be made in the General Plan update. She further suggested that Carson Street be considered for pass-through traffic data collection.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that staff was working in conjunction with the General Plan update. He stated that near-term development involved projects that have been approved by the Commission and/or City Council or may be coming forward for review. Regarding long-term development, he noted that the Citywide Traffic Study would reflect any land use modifications, and that the Department would be looking at a worst-case scenario for any properties that might be rezoned. He added that staff would consider taking counts on Carson Street, primarily on the east side of the street, and would consider its merits on the west side as well.

6b. CONSIDERATION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, TRAILERS, AND OVERSIZED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC STREETS

Transportation Manager Semaan introduced Transportation Planning Associate Crump, Public Works Associate Engineer Leung, Assistant Fire Marshall Gebel, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan, Deputy City Attorney Caceres, and Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda.

Transportation Planning Associate Crump provided background and analysis of the consideration to restrict parking of recreational vehicles (RVs), trailers, and oversized vehicles on public streets included in the material of record. She discussed attendance and input received from residents at four Community Meetings held on December 16, 2004, January 13, 2005, April 18, 2005, and May 23, 2005, as well as suggestions made at the June 6, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting and July 14, 2005 Traffic Commission Sub-Committee meeting. She noted that a list of viable recommendations and ideas compiled by staff was included in the agenda material.

Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda presented details of the proposed permit system in the draft ordinance presented at the June 6, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting. He stated that the proposal addresses the need to limit the number of oversized vehicles parked on public streets and that at a minimum the number of oversized vehicles would be reduced in future years through attrition of current vehicles registered with the Community Development Department. He discussed the no-fee parking permit program used in the City of Cerritos since 1970, noting that the staff's proposal allows for greater flexibility for residents and is less-restrictive.

Transportation Planning Associate Crump pointed out the attachments in the agenda material that includes a spreadsheet prepared by the Torrance Police Department depicting the total number and locations of oversized vehicles parked on City streets. She noted that Attachment D contains a number of "Frequently Asked Questions" that would provide clarification on some of the key issues that were being discussed. She stated that the goal this evening was to receive direction from the Traffic Commission and to narrow down the list of ideas and recommendations that could be forwarded to City Council.

Transportation Manager Semaan noted that there was supplemental material, consisting of correspondence received after the agenda packets were prepared.

Responding to Commissioner Lee's inquiry, Lieutenant Matsuda advised that 96 daily permits per year were proposed in the draft ordinance.

Commissioner Rische expressed surprise that 107 of the oversized vehicles listed in Attachment B were not registered in Torrance.

Responding to his inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that Attachment C was a Torrance Police Department complaint log, dated June 2003 to December 2004, regarding oversized vehicles parked on public streets requested through the City Clerk's Office. He concurred that approximately 25% of the vehicles canvassed were non-Torrance registered vehicles.

In response to Commissioner Santome's inquiry regarding exemptions in the ordinance in the City of Cerritos, Transportation Planning Associate Crump offered to forward him specifics of their program.

Transportation Manager Semaan commented that staff was looking at potential exceptions for owners who are disabled or use who use their RVs for their primary mode of transportation, irregardless of how the City of Cerritos operates.

Responding to Commissioner Tsao's request for clarification, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the Commission could make considerations for weekend parking, overnight parking, or change the number of permits per year proposed in the draft ordinance.

At Commissioner Tsao's request, Transportation Manager Semaan discussed possible RV storage locations in the City. He advised that staff has not contacted private businesses, but that Exxon/Mobil was opposed to RV storage within their property areas for security reasons. He commented that parking would not be available at businesses such as Costco or Sam's Club during holiday periods. He stated that the City was not interested in going into the business of providing parking for RVs. He noted that a private enterprise was currently pursuing an application with the Community Development Department and that another developer was interested in pursuing it in conjunction with a self-storage facility.

Chairperson Lewis inquired about new RVs purchased during the grace period proposed in the draft ordinance and Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the consideration would be direction taken from the Traffic Commission.

At 7:45 p.m., Chairperson Lewis welcomed public input and noted that any questions asked would be addressed under Orals.

Charles Hickey, Arvada Street, thanked the Police Department for conducting the survey, noted that only one in five vehicles were cited, and stated his opinion that the permit proposal was reasonable.

Mike, Gramercy Avenue, questioned how abuse of using confirmation numbers could be prevented and suggested that the City provide stickers to put on windshields prior to the registration end date

Steve Hamilton, W. 172nd Street, requested clarification of the "grandfathering" period.

Karen Fitch, 236th Street, also requested clarification regarding the “grand fathering” clause, questioned how a new law could be enforced if the current law could not, and stated that the proposal was punitive action against Torrance residents who comply with all rules and regulations.

At Transportation Manager Semaan’s request, Lieutenant Matsuda explained how current RV owners would be “grandfathered” until December 2007, with an additional one-year extension if necessary.

Greta Mendes, Normallin Street, noted that the City was in the business of storing airplanes and asked the difference between airplanes and RVs.

Harvey Hetrick, Cranbrook Avenue, requested documentation regarding the number of accidents related to RVs and runaway trailers, explosions due to stored gas and propane in RVs, hazardous materials records, and the number of emergency vehicles delayed by parked RVs. He proposed that a warning sign be displayed in places where RVs are sold as well as in real estate agreements.

David Genovese, Greenwood Avenue, expressed concern about speeding on his street, what would happen in two or three years, and what the status would be of a motor home purchased after January 2006.

Ron Butterworth, Marinette Street, expressed concern about where this proposal was going to lead and stated that registration leads to loss of freedoms. He suggested that South Bay Center Dispute Resolution on City retainer be used to mediate problems between neighbors. He warned that a new law would have to be posted on every City street, 150 feet apart, and that the City would lose revenue from license fees because owners would register their vehicles in the cities where they were stored.

Randy Langsdale, Gramercy Avenue, asked the number of RVs and trailers he could own under the proposal, if permits would be issued to the owner or the vehicle, and noted that he was unable park in front of his home because it was painted red.

Ben Lin, Cathann Street, discussed the shortage of RV storage facilities, even in the City of Pomona.

Dennis Phillips, Wilkie Avenue, asked how motor homes could be stopped from driving and parking in the City if owners were paying tax and license fees to the State.

Alan DeLuccio, Via Linda Vista, stated that RV owners worked hard for their freedoms and should be able to use them, and that his RV would be useful in case of an emergency.

JoAnn Citrowski, Bluff Street, expressed concern that the proposal was a foregone conclusion and voiced support of a “grandfather” clause that allows RV owners to park in front of their homes as long as they own their homes in the City.

Jim Beedy, Onrado Street, expressed concern that the proposal would require considerable manpower and cost and urged the Commission to consider better enforcement of the current law.

Maryann and Kaylynne Marquez, Loftyview, stated that the proposed ordinance would adversely affect families, teenagers, and children.

Paul Lindman, Halison Street, suggested that the non-Torrance RVs listed on the survey might be registered on another property outside the City.

Erik Showur, Cordary Avenue, commented that implementation and enforcement of a new law would require additional man-hours and money, and that mediation between RV owners and residents who complain should be considered.

Charles Deemer, Talisman Street, requested clarification on the definition of an oversized vehicle, if campers on pickup trucks were included in the proposal, and expressed concern about speeding in his neighborhood.

Andrew Pedorchek, Portabello Drive, noted the enormous amount of time and effort spent over 400 vehicles in a City of 100,000 people. He questioned how many different people have actually complained, expressed concern that homeowners associations do not represent the majority of homeowners and often dictate policy, and expressed doubt that there would be available or affordable storage in two or three years.

Mike Navarro, Elgar Avenue, noted that a neighbor complains daily about his motor home and volunteered to participate in a mediation process.

Wendy Williams, 218th Street, expressed support of a dispute resolution process and stated that she was saddened by the hostility that has occurred.

Mark Hogan, Flavian Avenue, stated that the current 72-hour restriction pertained to abandoned vehicles, that he thought it was ethical to park and store a vehicle in front of his own home, and that the City needed to be a model and create a facility for RV storage. He expressed concern that the next step would be to ban RVs from driveways and the City altogether.

Dean Myers, Hickory Avenue, stated that the City was entering a civil rights type of issue if a vehicle owner has paid registration and tax on the vehicle.

Tom DeCarlo, Delos Drive, stated that it would cost less and make more sense to better enforce the current 72-hour law. He stated that a sticker would make enforcement easier, suggested that a hotline be established for complaints, and noted that visitors with RVs needed to be accommodated.

Andrew Pedorchek, Portabello Drive, recommended a "grandfather" clause that would permanently allow registered RVs of current City residents to be parked on public streets.

The Commission was in recess from 8:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

An audience member, name withheld, stated that she could not afford to pay for RV storage and suggested that a committee representing RV owners meet with Commissioners to discuss the issue.

Newton Young, Hickory Avenue, stated that the audience of RV owners represented a tiny minority and that the proposal presented tonight was a good start.

Robert Gilles, Arlington Avenue, expressed concern that eventually he would not be able to park his RV in his own driveway and submitted a photograph of a vehicle parked near his residence for the last ten weeks without being moved.

Andrew Pedorchek, Portabello Drive, questioned if aesthetics was a viable means for rendering the proposed legislation.

Charles Hohn, Nadine Circle, expressed concern that he would not be able to load his motor home and questioned the severity of the problem.

Karen Galvin, Iris Avenue, voiced support of the proposal, noting that it would give the police the teeth to cite permanently parked RVs. She asked if there was a possibility of an ordinance being passed that would allow residents to park their RVs permanently.

Kurt Beyersdorff, Spencer Street, stated that there would never be available storage in the City due to developments.

Isabelle Mackless, address withheld, stated that the proposal was a violation of civil rights, that she was on a fixed income and could not afford RV storage, and that the 72-hour law needed to be better enforced.

Helen Soesbe, Loftyview, stated that the proposed ordinance would hurt families and seniors, and that it appeared that the City was bound and determined to limit the use of RVs.

Harvey Hetrick, Cranbrook Avenue, proposed that RV owners be charged a small fee for parking outside their residences and to use these fees to hire additional enforcement officers. He noted the document "16 Good Points About RVs Parked at the Owner Residence" included in the supplemental material of record.

Mike, Gramercy Avenue, stated that the City was being overbuilt without consideration of widening the streets, adding that RV usage would continue to increase.

Thomas Carsten, 226th Street, questioned how permits could be obtained on Sundays and stated that he was opposed to the proposed permit system.

Richard Heuer, 237th Street, suggested that parked RVs be filled with fresh water, canned food, and medical supplies.

Mike Richardson (address inaudible) asked for a better clarification of "grandfathering" and if legislation would be expanded to include large commercial vehicles.

Kurt Beyersdorff, Spencer Street, stated that Commissioners should be disqualified if there was a parked RV in their neighborhood and referred to "vehicular racial profiling."

Sandi Monda, Talisman Street, expressed concern that the City was spending so much time and money on this issue, that original concerns were no longer being addressed, and that better enforcement of the 72-hour law was a viable option.

Jim Beedy, Onrado Street, commented that people would always figure out a way to "beat the system."

Transportation Manager Semaan responded to questions raised by members of the audience. He stated that proposals have changed over time because staff was attempting to represent everyone in the City. He discussed the two or three year "grandfathering" period that would allow RV owners to find accommodations for their vehicles. He advised that a permit parking system would provide the tools for the Police Department to make parking enforcement effective. He stated that they were looking to resolve the issue of RVs that are stored on City streets and to address visibility issues and not targeting those owners who followed regulations. He advised that oversized vehicles parked near intersections, residents on fixed income, and owners who use their vehicles on a daily basis could be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

He advised that, under the proposed ordinance, currently owned vehicles would be "grandfathered" and that new vehicles purchased would not be covered under the grace period. He stated that the parking of oversized vehicles on City streets has been an on-going problem for at least ten years. He advised that the Commission has the ability to recommend that current Torrance owners be allowed to park on City streets. He noted that dimensions of their definition of an oversized vehicle were included in the draft ordinance, noting that they differed from the California Vehicle Code.

He suggested that residents who were opposed to RV parking on public streets felt intimidated to speak before the Commission. He stated that it would not be practical to send most of the complaints received to dispute resolution. He acknowledged that enforcement of the 72-hour law was complaint driven and explained that under current law the use of a "boot" was not applicable. He discussed options for obtaining permits at night and on weekends. He stressed that current law did not provide the right tools for police officers to do necessary enforcement, and discussed problems involved with recommending that vehicles be moved a few feet, a few blocks, or a mile after 72 hours.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan stated that there was no civil rights, racial profiling of RVs, and aesthetics issues involved here and that the City had the right to regulate RVs and trailers and to go beyond the Vehicle Code.

Commissioner Santome commended staff for their hard work and discussed the importance of being cognizant of the growth of the City. He expressed concern that the Commission would not be able to address all points in the draft ordinance this evening but that he was reluctant to continue the item.

Responding to his inquiry, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that it would be a violation of the Brown Act for the Commission to meet without it being open to the public.

In response to Commissioner Lee's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the permit system would be enforceable.

Lieutenant Matsuda explained how parking enforcement officers would have access to a data base connected in their vehicles or back at the police station to identify valid and invalid confirmation numbers. He advised that current computers would be used and additional equipment would not be necessary.

Commissioner Rische expressed concern about the 25% of RVs parked on City streets not registered in Torrance, the RVs parked near intersections and on narrow streets, and "spite" parking. He noted that there may be as many as 3,000 RVs in the

City and discussed the right of the majority to regulate the minority. He stated that he supported the proposal to register RVs to determine if vehicles were owned by City residents.

Commissioner Santome expressed concern that the issue was polarizing the community and that it was becoming a battle of the haves and have-nots. He stated that current law adequately addressed the problem and just because another City does something, Torrance does not have to do it. He stated that the current system can work if the residents make it work and that he did not want to affect a resident's ability to make decisions on how or where people spend their money.

Responding to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that the City had the ability to amend the current 72-hour law but that it would make it more complicated for traffic enforcement.

Chairperson Lewis voiced support of a grandfather clause allowing current RV owners before December 31, 2006, or another predetermined date, to park their RVs without restriction in the City under the current 72-hour restriction. He proposed that anybody purchasing an RV after that date would not be allowed to park on City streets unless a permit system was implemented. He pointed out that RV owners were present because they stood to lose a lot more than the residents who complained.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that Commission recommendations needed to be made in the form of a motion so that staff could move forward in writing a draft ordinance before presentation to City Council.

MOTION: Chairperson Lewis moved that any current owner of an RV, trailer, or oversized vehicle residing in the City before December 31, 2006 be allowed to park that vehicle on City streets without restriction except for the current 72-hour parking restriction law. Any vehicles purchased by non-current owners of RVs, as of January 1, 2007, would need to find off-site parking for those vehicles and could only park on City streets as outlined in the draft ordinance for loading and unloading purposes only.

Commissioner Santome made a friendly amendment to Chairperson Lewis' motion to include that once a person has established ownership, that ownership would continue, whether it be a new or different type of RV, trailer, boat, or motor home, subject to all current parking restrictions. New ownership, subject to January 1, 2007, would not be allowed to park their RVs on City streets without a permit.

Commissioner Lee stated that it was unfair to give current RV owners an advantage over other people, and that restrictions should be applicable to everyone in the City.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that any motion, whether friendly amended or not, needed a second. He requested clarification on the permit system so that it could be drafted accordingly.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan received clarification from Commissioner Santome that his intent was a vehicle for vehicle replacement.

Commissioner Lee suggested that any regulation should be applicable to everyone in the City and not limited to current owners.

Transportation Manager Semaan clarified that if a resident owned a maximum of three RVs, trailers, or oversized vehicles today, they could continue to have the permanence for a maximum of three vehicles.

Commissioner Rische seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 as reflected in the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Commissioners Lewis, Santome, Tsao, and Rische.
Noes:	Commissioner Lee.
Absent:	Commissioner Ulrich.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that staff would draft an ordinance based on the Commission's direction and that it would be forwarded to City Council in the future. He stated that residents on the mailing list would be notified of the City Council meeting date.

Commissioner Santome requested that Commissioner Ulrich be given an opportunity to review the draft ordinance before its presentation to City Council.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that staff would draft the ordinance, bring back an item with that draft ordinance and background information, give the Commission the opportunity to review the language and intent, and then forward it to City Council.

Commissioner Rische stated that the issues regarding RVs parked on narrow streets and allowing owners to pave part of their private properties were pertinent and needed to be addressed.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that there were general restrictions in the City's Municipal Code to address the issue of RVs parked on narrow streets. He stated that staff efforts were to address the parking of RVs on public streets and not private property. He advised that dimensions of oversized vehicles and whether they were hitched or unhitched were included in the draft ordinance.

7. ORALS

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the next regularly scheduled Traffic Commission meeting date, September 5, 2005, was a holiday.

At 10:37 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to October 3, 2005 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Written October 3, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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